preventing misappropriation of Traditional Medical Knowledge at the International Patent Offices. TKDL establishes 'prior art' for approximately 2.08 lakh AYUSH formulations transcribed in five international languages which are English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese and prevents the grant of wrong patents at the International Patent Offices.

(c) Yes.

(d) On 12th February 2009, TKDL Access Agreement was signed with the European Patent Office (EPO), making TKDL database available to their Patent Examiners (EPO having 35 member states) for establishing 'prior art', in case of patent applications based on Indian systems of medicine.

(e) So far, EPO has set aside its intention to grant patent in two cases based on TKDL evidence and in four cases applicants themselves have withdrawn 4-5 years old patent applications on the basis of TKDL evidence and EPO has cited TKDL evidence in 30 more cases. Therefore, TKDL has proved its efficacy in preventing piracy of Indian Traditional medicinal system at EPO.

Changes in policies on medical education

2834. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to bring about changes in policies relating to medical education like reviewing the Medical Council of India's norms on opening of private medical institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) Medical Council of India Regulations, namely (i) Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997, (ii) Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations 2000, (iii) Minimum Qualifications for Teachers in Medical Institutions Regulations, 1998 and (iv) Minium Standard Requirement for the Medical College for 50/100/150 Admissions Annually 1999 have been reviewed and amended with regard to land requirement, teacher-student ratio, undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, minimum qualification of medical teachers etc.

Facilities for geriatric care

2835. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government hospitals have earmarked facilities for geriatric patients as per provision for medical care of senior citizen under existing law;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether every district hospital of Assam is duly headed by the medical officer with experience in geriatric care; and